

substance of the discussions at the interview are incorporated in the remarks which follow.

Turning to the Office Action, claims 15, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27-29, 33, 36, 37, 41-44, 48 and 49 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being "anticipated by" the Pool et al patent referred to above. Dependent claims 16-19, 46 and 47 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being "unpatentable over" the Pool et al patent in view of the Westrope et al patent. As indicated above, the claims have been amended to more clearly define over the Pool et al patent whether taken alone or in combination with the Westrope patent.

As discussed during the interview, a very important aspect of the present invention concerns the provision of a universal electronic catalog database. A key aspect of this universal database is that item or product information is received from vendors in a predefined standard format so as to create the catalog database. Although the Pool et al patent refers to the transaction system disclosed therein "containing or interacting with various databases" including "product and catalog information including translations from different languages of product catalogs," it is clear that the catalogs referred to in the reference are conventional (perhaps apart from providing a translation of the catalogs into a plurality of different languages). The universal catalog database of the present invention differs from such conventional databases, inter alia, in that the product information is received from vendors in a predefined standard format thus enabling the catalog to be created by item information published therein by many different vendors and allowing similar catalog items from many different sources to be readily searched by a user of the database. Again, this feature is simply not disclosed in the Pool et al patent, nor in any other prior art of which applicant is aware, and thus allowance of the claims as amended is respectfully solicited. In this regard, claims 1-14 have been already allowed, and all of the remaining independent claims, claims 15, 27, 36 and 43, have been amended to include the recitation discussed above.

Allowance of the application in its present form is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 9, 2003


By: Ross F. Hunt, Jr.
Registration No.: 24,082

LARSON & TAYLOR, PLC • 1199 North Fairfax St. • Suite 900 • Alexandria, VA 22314 • (703) 739-4900

ATTACHMENT A

Amendments to the Claims

Following herewith is a complete listing of the claims, including a marked copy of the currently amended claims.

1. (Previously Amended) A method for facilitating worldwide commercial electronic commerce based on national deployment, comprising the steps of:

- A. receiving a request from a requester through a network for total landed cost of a purchase based on initial cost of a seller item for an inter-country transaction,
- B. determining, from a database, trade costs associated with the purchase by:

performing an exchange rate calculation using the initial cost of the item and the currency type the requester prefers and the currency type the seller prefers,

determining tariff for the item, from a database, based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to,

determining delivery costs associated with the item, from a database, based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to,

calculating value for duty to be added to the initial cost based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to,

calculating value added taxes based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to, and

determining purchase quantity to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly;

determining customer type to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

determining whether any trading private or public partner agreements apply which govern the purchase price and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

C. adding the trade costs, as adjusted as required, to the initial cost resulting in the total landed cost.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving, through the network, an identity of a country the item is to be shipped from and an identity of a country the item is to be shipped to, and
receiving, from the requester through the network, currency type the requester prefers and currency type the seller prefers.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying, over the network, to the requester, the total landed cost.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining tariff for the item further comprises the steps of:
sending a request through the network containing an item description to the country the item is to be shipped to, and
receiving, by the requester, through the network, the tariff information.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining tariff for the item further comprises the step of:
searching, in the database, a harmonized tariff schedule of the country the item is to be shipped to for the tariff associated to the item.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
transmitting, through the network, the total landed cost to the requester.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
displaying, through the network, the total landed cost.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the requester is a potential buyer.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the requester is the owner of the item.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the item is a service.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the item is a product.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving, over the network, a request for comparison of total landed cost of an item in multiple countries,
calculating total landed cost for the item in each country requested, and
displaying, through the network, total landed cost of the item in each country requested.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a purchase order over the network, from the requester for the seller item,
notifying the seller, through the network, the requester has agreed to purchase the seller item, and
consumating a monetary exchange through the network.
15. (Currently Amended) A method for creating ~~and searching~~ a universal electronic catalog, comprising the steps of:
receiving item information through a network ~~into~~in a predefined standard format to create a predefined, structured, universal electronic catalog database,
placing the item information into categories based on standard classification codes, and
associating a country where the item resides to the item information in the universal electronic catalog database.

- [Handwritten mark: a stylized signature or mark, possibly "J. A. Smith"]*
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a search request through the network containing a standard classification code, and
returning, through the network, items within the standard classification code.
 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:
receiving, through the network, a country to be searched, and
returning, through the network, a subset of items within the standard classification code within the country to be searched.
 18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:
displaying, through the network, the items returned.
 19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
displaying, through the network, the subset of items returned.
 20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
determining trade costs associated with the item,
adding the trade costs to cost of the item resulting in the total landed cost of the item, and
returning, through the network, the total landed cost of the item.
 21. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:
receiving, through the network, identify of the country the item is to be shipped from and identity of the country the item is to be shipped to, and
receiving, through the network, type of currency the requester prefers and type of currency the seller prefers.
 22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
performing an exchange rate calculation using the initial cost of the item and the type of currency the requester prefers and the type of currency the seller prefers,

determining tariff for the item based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to,

determining delivery costs associated with the item based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to,

calculating value for duty to be added to the initial cost based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to,

calculating valued added taxes based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to,

determining purchase quantity to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly;

determining customer type to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

determining whether any trading private or public partner agreements apply which govern the purchase price and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

arriving at the total landed cost by adding to the total initial cost the value for the duty, the value added taxes, the tariff, and the delivery costs.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:
displaying, through the network, the total landed cost.

24. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the item is a service.

25. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the item is a product.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating worldwide commercial business to business and government electronic commerce based on national deployment, said system comprising:

a network of country specific systems;

each of said plurality of country specific systems including:

a predefined, structured, universal electronic commerce catalog database containing subscriber information and country trade variables; and

an electronic catalog for receiving item information from vendors in a predefined standard format, said item information being placed into categories in said catalog based on standard classification codes.

28. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for determining trade costs associated with item.

29. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for receiving identify of a country the item is to be shipped from and identity of a country the item is to be shipped to; and

means for receiving type of currency the requester prefers and type of currency the seller prefers.

30. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 29, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for performing an exchange rate calculation using the initial cost of the item and the type of currency the requester prefers and the type of currency the seller prefers;

means for determining tariff for the item based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to;

means for determining delivery costs associated with the item based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to;

means for calculating value for the duty to be added to the initial cost based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to;

means for calculating value added taxes based on the country the item is to be shipped from and the country the item is to be shipped to, and

means for determining purchase quantity to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly;

means for determining customer type to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

means for determining whether any trading private or public partner agreements apply which govern the purchase price and adjusting the trade costs accordingly;

means for arriving at a total landed cost by adding to the total initial cost the value for the duty, the value added taxes, the tariff, and the delivery costs.

31. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for returning, through the network, total landed cost of the item.

32. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for displaying, through the network, the total landed cost of the item.

33. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein country trade variables comprise a tariff, a value added tax, a delivery cost, trading partner agreements, and a duty.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for receiving, over the network, a request for comparison of said total landed cost of an item in multiple countries;

means for calculating said total landed cost for said item in each country requested; and

means for displaying, through said network, said total landed cost of said item in each country requested.

36. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating worldwide commercial business to business and government electronic commerce based on national deployment, said system comprising:

a network of country specific systems, each of said plurality of country specific systems including:

a universal electronic commerce catalog database for facilitating country to country trade, said universal electronic commerce catalog receiving item information from vendors in a predefined standard format so as to create said database and said universal electronic commerce catalog database determining, based at least on information from said database containing country trade variables, trade costs associated with a purchase based on initial cost of a seller item, in response to a request through said network for a total landed cost of the purchase, and adding said trade costs to said initial cost to produce said total landed cost.

37. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database comprises:

means for receiving identity of a country said item is to be shipped from and identity of a country said item is to be shipped to; and

means for receiving type of currency a requester prefers and type of currency a seller prefers.

38. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for performing an exchange rate calculation using the initial cost of said item and the type of currency said requester prefers and the type of currency said seller prefers;

means for determining tariff for said item based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for determining delivery costs associated with said item based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for calculating value for the duty to be added to the initial cost based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for calculating value added taxes based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for determining purchase quantity to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly;

means for determining customer type to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

means for determining whether any trading private or public partner agreements apply which govern the purchase price and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

means for arriving at a total landed cost by adding to a total initial cost said value for the duty, said value added taxes, said tariff and said delivery costs.

39. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for returning, through said network, said total landed cost of said item.

40. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for displaying, through said network, said total landed cost of said item.

41. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein said country trade variables comprise a tariff, a value added tax, a delivery cost, trading partner agreements, and a duty.

42. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for receiving, over the network, a request for comparison of said total landed cost of an item in multiple countries;

means for calculating said total landed cost for said item in each country requested; and

means for displaying, through said network, said total landed cost of said item in each country requested.

43. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating worldwide commercial business to business and government electronic commerce based on national deployment, said system comprising:

a network of country specific systems;

each of said plurality of country specific systems including:

a universal electronic catalog for receiving item information from vendors in a predefined standard format, said item information being placed into categories in said catalog based on standard classification codes; and

a predefined, structured, universal electronic commerce catalog database, for facilitating country to country trade using said electronic catalog, said universal electronic commerce catalog database determining trade costs associated with a purchase based on initial cost of a seller item, in response to a request through said network for a total landed cost of the purchase, and adding said trade costs to said initial cost to produce said total landed cost.

44. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database comprises:

means for receiving identity of a country said item is to be shipped from and identity of a country said item is to be shipped to; and

means for receiving type of currency a requester prefers and type of currency a seller prefers.

45. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 44, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for performing an exchange rate calculation using the initial cost of said item and the type of currency said requester prefers and the type of currency said seller prefers;

means for determining tariff for said item based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for determining delivery costs associated with said item based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for calculating value for the duty to be added to the initial cost based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for calculating value added taxes based on the country said item is to be shipped from and the country said item is to be shipped to;

means for determining purchase quantity to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly;

means for determining customer type to ascertain whether a special purchase price applies and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

means for determining whether any trading private or public partner agreements apply which govern the purchase price and adjusting the trade costs accordingly; and

means for arriving at a total landed cost by adding to a total initial cost said value for the duty, said value added taxes, said tariff and said delivery costs.

46. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for receiving a search request through said network containing a standard classification code, and

means for returning, through said network, items within said standard classification code.

47. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for displaying, through said network, said items returned.

48. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein said country trade variables comprise a tariff, a value added tax, a delivery cost, trading partner agreements, and a duty.

49. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein said universal electronic commerce catalog database further comprises:

means for receiving, over the network, a request for comparison of said total landed cost of an item in multiple countries;

means for calculating said total landed cost for said item in each country requested; and

means for displaying, through said network, said total landed cost of said item in each country requested.

50. (Canceled)
